



## *The President's Daily Brief*

*18 February 1971*

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*Top Secret*<sup>50X1</sup>

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 February 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Substantial movements of North Vietnamese troops into Laos west of the DMZ suggest that the enemy plans to resist the South Vietnamese cross-border operation more vigorously. (Page 1)

Two Russian hydroacoustic research ships entered the Caribbean Sea this week. (Page 3)

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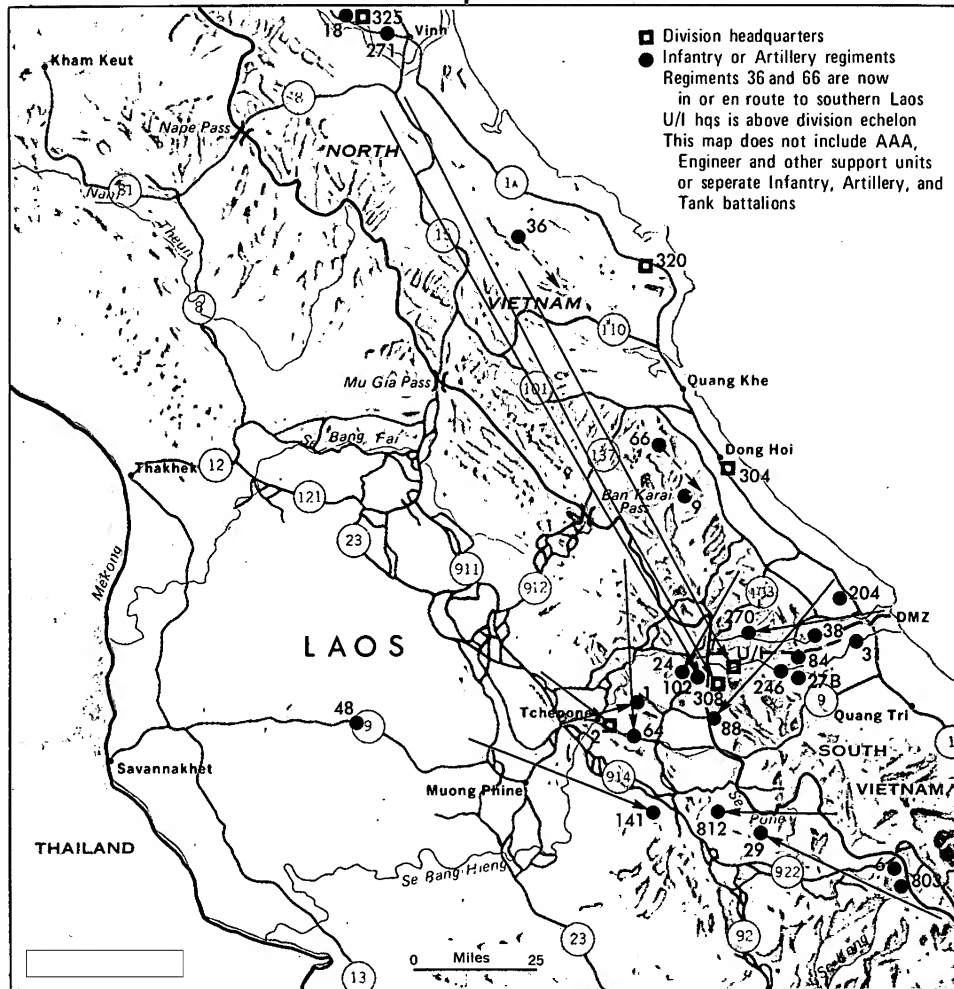
Unrest among Polish workers employed in East Germany has caused some uneasiness in the East German party apparatus. (Page 4)

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## Recent Communist Troop Movements



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VIETNAM-LAOS

It now seems that North Vietnam has assigned all three regiments of the 308th Division to the Laotian panhandle battlefield. The division headquarters and its 102nd Regiment recently linked up with the 88th Regiment west of the DMZ, and the communications of its 36th Regiment suggest that it too is en route, or already in, eastern Laos.

The 66th Regiment of the North Vietnamese 304th Division is showing signs that it too may be moving into Laos from the Dong Hoi area in North Vietnam. Its sister regiment, the 24B, has been involved in offensive action in Laos just north of Route 9. South of Route 9, the North Vietnamese 812th Regiment has joined two other enemy regiments in a new buildup on the southern periphery of the South Vietnamese cross-border operation.

*These new identifications, together with those units sent earlier, indicate the North Vietnamese will soon abandon their cautious tactics of the past two weeks and attempt to counter the South Vietnamese thrust more vigorously. Hanoi is not likely to accept the substantial disruption of its supply lines without a major fight.*

While the Communists are repositioning troops in response to the South Vietnamese action, they are also continuing a crash supply effort. A recent message from a major supply station west of Tchepone said that the transportation mission for this unit for the entire dry season is to be completed during February. To accomplish this, up to 250 vehicles were to pass through an area every night.

*This order places a great burden on the supply system. If it can be carried out, however, the heaviest movement of Communist supplies through the Tchepone area could be taking place by the end of this month.*

(continued)

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As another result of the South Vietnamese operations into both Laos and Cambodia, a spate of new reports claims the Communists plan to increase action in various parts of South Vietnam. Although planning for additional action as part of the Communists' annual winter-spring campaign is normal at this time of year, many recent reports relate future efforts specifically to the South Vietnamese cross-border operations.

*A moderate increase in enemy activity is likely. The enemy appeals, however, are clearly designed to boost troop morale and promote a more vigorous seasonal campaign.*

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USSR

Two Soviet hydroacoustic research ships entered the Caribbean Sea on 16 February. Prior to their departure from the USSR last month, the leader of the expedition, Academician L. M. Brekhovskikh, said in a press interview that the study of waves under the ocean's surface would be one of the main objectives of the voyage.

*Brekhovskikh is chairman of the Acoustics Committee of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and is the USSR's foremost expert on underwater sound and its application to sonar design. In the past, these two research ships have conducted acoustical experiments in conjunction with submarines off the West African coast.*

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NOTES

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East Germany - Poland: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] a delegation of Polish workers, employed in East Germany's Suhl district, submitted a number of grievances over living and working conditions to the Polish ambassador in Berlin. This event will reinforce East German concern about the possibility of contagion from Polish workers in their midst. During the December rioting in Poland, for example, Polish workers were partially isolated from German workers; this caused some minor frictions but no serious incidents developed. The East Germans will have fresh anxieties, however, now that the Poles have gone over the head of local officials to deliver their complaints to Berlin.

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Congo (Kinshasa) - Israel - Sudan: [REDACTED]

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